REMARKS

The specification has been reviewed, and a clerical error of the specification has been amended.

On page 2 of the Action, claims 1-3, 6-12 and 15-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lockwood. On page 5 of the Action, claims 4, 5, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lockwood in view of JP '164.

In view of the rejections, claims 1, 3, 7-10 and 18 have been amended. Claims 17 and 18 have been cancelled, and new claim 20 has been filed.

In Lockwood, a scanner includes an input sheet path 24, and upper and lower scanning elements 32, 34 located at an ejecting side of the input sheet path 24. In this respect, the lower scanning element 34 is located close to the ejecting side of the input sheet path 24 relative to the upper scanning element 32. When a document on a scanning platen 112 is read, the lower scanning element 34 moves on a rail 110 crossing under the upper scanning element 32.

Therefore, in case the positions of the upper and lower scanning elements 32, 34 are considered to correspond to those of the first to third reading stations of the invention, a second reading station, a third reading station and a first reading station are arranged in this order from left to right in Fig. 1 of Lockwood.

In claims 1, 7 and 20, it is clarified that the first, second and third reading stations (first platen glass, second platen glass and second guide member in claim 7) are arranged adjacent to each other in this order. Therefore, the arrangement of the first, second and third reading stations of the invention is different from that of Lockwood. In the invention, since the second reading station is located between the first and third reading stations, the

first reading means can be quickly moved between the first and second reading stations. In Lockwood, the lower scanning element 34 located at a position corresponding to the second reading station passes under the upper scanning element 32 and moves to the scanning platen 112, i.e. first reading station. Therefore, in Lockwood, the size of the apparatus becomes large, as compared with the invention.

Also, in Lockwood, the document is supplied from the input sheet path 24 from the right end of the lower scanning element 34, corresponding to the second reading station. In the invention, the transport path is defined to guide the document on the supply tray from a portion between the first and second reading stations to the second reading station and the third reading station in this order in a direction opposite to the first reading station. In Lockwood, the document is not fed between the first and second reading stations, and is fed toward the first reading station. Thus, the feeding position and the direction of the document of the invention are different from those disclosed in Lockwood.

In claim 20, in addition to the above differences, the detailed structure of the first reading means is defined. Also, the arrangement of the first and second carriages is clarified. The first reading means in claim 20 are not disclosed or suggested in Lockwood.

JP '164 was cited to show a second carriage. In claim 20, it is defined that the first carriage is located under the second reading station and the second carriage is located under the third reading station so that the document passing through the second reading station is read. The arrangement of the first and second carriages is not disclosed or suggested in JP '164.

As explained above, the features of the invention now amended are not disclosed or suggested in the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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